



*News From*

# **Maggie Brooks**

## *Monroe County Executive*

**For Immediate Release**

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### **BROOKS REPORTS ON MONROE COUNTY'S HOUSING SUCCESSES**

Monroe County Executive **Maggie Brooks** today reported on the County's housing successes of the past two years during her keynote address at the Greater Rochester Association of Realtors Annual Real Estate Forecast and Economic Update.

*"Monroe County is committed to supporting the development of affordable housing, assisting families in improving their homes, and helping more individuals realize the dream of homeownership. Monroe County is also committed to keeping property taxes stable. In doing all this, we enhance our quality of life and keep faith with local taxpayers," said **Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks**. "Housing supports economic growth and job creation, and is essential to the overall economic vitality of our community."*

**Brooks highlighted the following successes in her speech since January 1, 2004:**

- ?? Monroe County has helped open 253 affordable apartments for seniors on fixed incomes, working families and individuals with special needs through the HOME program. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) designated Monroe County as #2 in the State in administering this federally funded program.
- ?? Monroe County has helped 75 first-time homebuyers realize the American dream of homeownership by providing nearly \$5,000 in downpayment and closing costs to each income-eligible homebuyer.
- ?? Monroe County has provided funding that has resulted in the completion of 148 home improvement projects through one-time grants and loans of up to \$7,500 to income eligible homeowners to make structural, ADA, or system, such as plumbing or electrical, repairs to their homes.

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?? East Rochester and Brighton joined the County's Community Development Consortium last year. As a result, for the first time in almost a decade, Monroe County is serving all of the suburban towns and villages through its housing programs. Brooks said this is another great example of community-wide collaboration.

Monroe County's Community Development Administration, part of the Department of Planning and Development, administers the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and the Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) program. Through these federally funded programs, the County is able to support a variety of housing and community development projects, including housing rehabilitation, affordable housing development, neighborhood improvements, ADA improvements to public facilities, and essential community and economic development activities that create jobs.